

**ST JOSEPH'S PARISH**  
OUYEN, PATCHEWOLLOCK, TEMPY, WALPEUP, UNDERBOOL



Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

19<sup>th</sup> February 2023

### Entrance Antiphon

O Lord, I trust in your merciful love.  
My heart will rejoice in your salvation.  
I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful  
with me.

### First Reading Lv 19:1-2, 17-18

A reading from the book of Leviticus

**You must love your neighbour, as yourself.**

The Lord spoke to Moses; he said: 'Speak to the whole community of the sons of Israel and say to them: "Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy.

"You must not bear hatred for your brother in your heart. You must openly tell him, your neighbour, of his offence; this way you will not take a sin upon yourself. You must not exact vengeance, nor must you bear a grudge against the children of your people. You must love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord."

### Responsorial Psalm

**(R.)** The Lord is kind and merciful.

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord,  
all my being, bless his holy name.  
My soul, give thanks to the Lord  
and never forget all his blessings. **(R.)**
2. It is he who forgives all your guilt,  
who heals every one of your ills,  
who redeems your life from the grave,  
who crowns you with love and compassion. **(R.)**
3. The Lord is compassion and love,  
slow to anger and rich in mercy.

He does not treat us according to our sins  
nor repay us according to our faults. **(R.)**

4. As far as the east is from the west  
so far does he remove our sins.  
As a father has compassion on his sons,  
the Lord has pity on those who fear him. **(R.)**

### Second Reading 1 Cor 3:16-23

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the  
Corinthians

**All things are yours, but you belong to Christ  
and Christ belongs to God.**

Didn't you realise that you were God's temple  
and that the Spirit of God was living among you?  
If anybody should destroy the temple of God,  
God will destroy him, because the temple of God  
is sacred; and you are that temple.

Make no mistake about it: if any one of you  
thinks of himself as wise, in the ordinary sense of  
the word, then he must learn to be a fool before  
he really can be wise. Why? Because the wisdom  
of this world is foolishness to God. As scripture  
says: The Lord knows wise men's thoughts: he  
knows how useless they are, or again: God is not  
convinced by the arguments of the wise. So there  
is nothing to boast about in anything human:  
Paul, Apollos, Cephas, the world, life and death,  
the present and the future, are all your servants;  
but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to  
God.

### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Whoever keeps the word of Christ,  
grows perfect in the love of God.

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Alleluia!

## **Gospel** [Mt 5:38-48](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

### **Love your enemies.**

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘You have learnt how it was said: Eye for eye and tooth for tooth. But I say this to you: offer the wicked man no resistance. On the contrary, if anyone hits you on the right cheek, offer him the other as well; if a man takes you to law and would have your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone orders you to go one mile, go two miles with him. Give to anyone who asks, and if anyone wants to borrow, do not turn away.

‘You have learnt how it was said: You must love your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I say this to you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you; in this way you will be sons of your Father in heaven, for he causes his sun to rise on bad men as well as good, and his rain to fall on honest and dishonest men alike. For if you love those who love you, what right have you to claim any credit? Even the tax collectors do as much, do they not? And if you save your greetings for your brothers, are you doing anything exceptional? Even the pagans do as much, do they not? You must therefore be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect.’

## **Communion Antiphon**

I will recount all your wonders,  
I will rejoice in you and be glad,  
and sing psalms to your name, O Most High.

## **Reflection** *adapted from Dr John Bergsma’s “The Word of the Lord”*

This Sunday’s readings include some of the best known, and hardest to practice, passages from the Gospel, including Jesus’s famous command to turn the other cheek. Biblical scholarship can only go so far in making clear some of Jesus’s challenging commands; beyond that, we need the saints.

Our readings start off showing the continuity between Jesus’s teachings and the Old Testament, quoting a section from Leviticus. The key concept emphasized in both the First Reading and the Psalm is the imitation of God as the principle of human morality. We are not to

practice hatred, grudges, or vengeance because God is not hateful, bitter, or vengeful. “Be holy, for I am holy.” Holiness does not mean merely moral goodness holiness entails and requires moral virtue—and not simply justice, but something more. God does not judge according to strict justice, but he punishes far less than we deserve and forgives far more than we merit. In light of the Gospel for today, the Second Reading takes on a peculiar significance. St. Paul begins by stressing to the Corinthians that they are the “Temple of God” and therefore share in his holiness, picking up a theme from the First Reading.

In the Gospel Jesus calls his disciples to transcend these attempts to “settle scores” with those who harm us. He counsels us to offer no resistance and even to give more than is asked for by those who want something from us.

Jesus’s teaching raises many questions. Should not the evil man be resisted? But the examples Jesus cites are not of threats to one’s life. He does not say, “If someone chops off your hand, offer him your other too,” or “If someone comes at you with a spear, stick out your chest so he can run you through.” The examples Jesus cites are of insults and claims on one’s property. Striking on the right cheek would be a back-handed slap from a right-handed person. That is, an insult, not an immediate threat to life. Suing for one’s cloak and insisting on a mile of travel, are impositions on one’s goods and time, respectively.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus calls us as his disciples to bear with insults and to be generous in the distribution of our goods and the sharing of our time. As Jesus removed the concession for divorce in last week’s reading, so now he corrects the commands on “hatred” of enemies. “Love your enemies,” Jesus says. Human nature is to love those who love you, but there is no merit in it. To be like God, to have any moral merit, we must love even the unlovable because this is the imitation of God. God loves the unlovable, starting with each one of us, so we must do the same. Our Lord’s words are counsels for our personal behaviour in daily life, they are easy to admire and difficult to implement. Do we actually pray for those who oppose us? This Sunday is a time for examination of conscience and soul-searching, to identify where hatred lies in our heart, and to begin the practices of generosity and prayer that can overcome it.

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Parish Administrator: Fr Anthony Nagothu (03) 5026 3068

Parish Contact Person: Faye Nihill Ph: 0429 921 326

Parish Email: Ouyen@ballarat.catholic.org.au

## Recent Deaths:

### Anniversaries:

**Sick:** Cora Jardine, Judi Floyd, John Nihill and Eleanor Healy 🙏

May our healing God touch the lives of our sick bringing them comfort & peace.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent 26<sup>th</sup> February - Mass

Ouyen: 11:00am

Reader: Louise Fitzpatrick Leach

Prayers of the Faithful: Gerald Leach

Offertory Procession: Celia Reidy & Faye Nihill

Eucharistic Minister: Marlene O'Callaghan

Projectionist: Cara Brady

## Collections 12<sup>th</sup> January

Ouyen: \$228.00

Planned Giving: \$120.00

### Church Cleaning:

February: Faye Nihill & Ellen Bonica

### Presbytery Cleaning:

February: Marie Shaddock

**Prayer For Australia:** Eternal Father, I offer you the Precious Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ offered at all the Masses throughout the world for the Holy atonement, and to protect Australia from the sin of abortion, euthanasia, and from every evil. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### Mass Timetable

Wk 1 Ouyen	Mass	11:00am	Sunday
Wk 2 Ouyen	Mass	11:00am	Sunday
Wk 3 Ouyen	Mass	11:00am	Sunday
Wk 4 U'Bool	Mass	9:00am	Sunday
Wk 4 Ouyen	Mass	11:00am	Sunday
Wk 5 Ouyen	Mass	11:00am	Sunday

**World Day of Prayer** – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> of March 10:00am at Underbool & 7:00pm Ouyen hosted by All Saints Church, followed by a cuppa in the Hall; all welcome.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Father will be available after the 11:00am Mass, or at any other time by appointment.

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:** each Thursday from 2pm-5pm with Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3pm & Rosary 4pm; all welcome.

**Ash Wednesday is 22<sup>nd</sup> of February** this year, Father Matt Thomas has kindly offered to say Mass for us at 5pm on that day

**Pope's Prayer Intention for February: For Parishes** – We pray that Parishes, placing communion at the centre, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.

**Project Compassion** boxes and envelopes are available on the table with the bulletins.

### What was discussed at Last Friday's Leadership Team Meeting

Parish Leadership Meeting was held on Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> February in the Presbytery. Items discussed were: **Maintenance issues:** lawns, television screens, an outside working bee (when it is cooler) insurance photos updated.

**Patchewollock Closing Mass:** plans are well under way with invitations gone out, an article in the paper nearer the time, Mass booklet and catering discussed.

**Lenten Discussion Group:** trying a new, more relaxed setting of a Friday evening in someone's home.

**World Day of Prayer** – All Saints are the hosts this year but we will require at least 5 readers. **Fr Anthony leaving:** immediate thoughts were to have parish meeting asap to discuss thoughts, feelings and a way forward.

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**Project Compassion boxes and envelopes** are available on the table with the bulletins. Please take yours home this week. The theme “For all Future Generations” asks us to think about the great *yes* that Mary spoke at the Annunciation. She freely accepted God’s invitation to take up a unique place in the history of the human family. The prayer Mary shared with her cousin Elizabeth says, “all generations will call me blessed”. Her *yes* is for *all future generations*. May ours be too! Each week after Communion we will focus on one of the featured stories.

**Next Sunday** the Vicar General, Fr Kevin Maloney, will be here to celebrate Mass. It will be the first time he has been here, apart from the opening of the church, so please make him feel welcome.

**Aid the Church in Need** has opened an emergency appeal for the people in Northern Syria. They have already mobilised over \$770,000 of immediate aid to Christians in Syria in the wake of the earthquake that killed more than 30,000 people in that country and in neighbouring Turkey. The charity is working with local project partners to firm up an emergency aid package with a focus on two key areas- minor & major repairs in Aleppo and secondly blankets and food packages. To donate call: 1800101201 this is a free call within Australia.



**Lenten discussion group** – Begins next Friday evening the 24<sup>th</sup> of February, 7:30pm at Carmel Vallance’s house – 73 Scott St Ouyen.

**World Day of Prayer** – This year is on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> of March 10:00am at Underbool & 7:00pm Ouyen hosted by All Saints Church, followed by a cuppa in the Hall; all welcome.

**Final Mass for the Patchewollock Church** will be on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> of March at 3:00pm, followed by refreshments in the Hall, anyone wishing to attend is kindly asked to bring whatever they would like to eat and drink. Bishop Paul will say Mass in Ouyen on Sunday the 19<sup>th</sup> followed by a cuppa in the Parish Centre.

### **What’s Happening When**

**13<sup>th</sup> February** – Fr Anthony on holidays

**19<sup>th</sup> February** – Mass via Horsham Live Stream, 11:00am in the church

**22<sup>nd</sup> February** – **Ash Wednesday** - Mass at 5pm with Fr Matt Thomas

**24<sup>th</sup> February** – **First Lenten Discussion Group** 7:30pm, 73 Scott St Ouyen – Carmel & Neil Vallance

**26<sup>th</sup> February** – **1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent** - Fr Kevin Maloney to say Mass

**2<sup>nd</sup> March** – Lenten Discussion Group 7:30pm, 28 Calder Hwy Ouyen – Peter & Marie Shaddock

**3<sup>rd</sup> March** – World Day of Prayer – All Saints – 7pm

**5<sup>th</sup> March** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent -Mass via Horsham Live Stream, 11:00am in the church

**10<sup>th</sup> March**- Lenten Discussion Group 7:30pm

**12<sup>th</sup> March** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent - Fr Kevin Maloney to say Mass

**16<sup>th</sup> March** – Fr Anthony back from Holidays

**18<sup>th</sup> March** – 3pm Final Mass at Patchewollock church followed by refreshments at the Patche Hall

**19<sup>th</sup> March** – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent -Bishop Paul to say Mass in Ouyen, followed by a cuppa in the Parish Centre (please bring a plate to share)

**21<sup>st</sup> March** – Ouyen to host Zone meeting of Priests 10am – 1pm in the Parish Centre

**26<sup>th</sup> March** – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent – Fr Anthony to say Mass

**2<sup>nd</sup> April** – Palm Sunday – Fr Anthony to say Mass

**6<sup>th</sup> April** – Holy Thursday – Visiting Priest – 7:00pm Mass

**7<sup>th</sup> April** – Good Friday - Visiting Priest – 3:00pm

**8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> April** - Easter Vigil/Day - Visiting Priest – to be advised

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